

A Place Called Whippany

The history and contemporary times of Hanover Township, by: Leonardo A. Fariello

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Contemporary Times of Hanover Township

As time passes from one century to another, Hanover Township remains an excellent place to live, work, and play. Hanover is a thriving community of houses, office, industry, warehouse, wholesale and retail establishments, and open space. It has a scenic river with forested plains and open meadows along its river valley and elevations reaching nearly five hundred feet. Most residents are proud to live in Whippany, Cedar Knolls, Countrywood, and Trailwood and there is an abundance of community spirit. Residents are endowed with many township services and amenities. The crime rate is low and residential neighborhoods are a safe place where children can play in the streets. The school system is excellent with neighborhood elementary schools in Whippany, Cedar Knolls and Countrywood, and a high school in Whippany.

The Parks and Recreation Department is second to none with over five hundred acres of municipal open space in the form of parkland located throughout the township. Part of the Morris County Arboretum is located in Whippany and the cross-county hiking/biking trail known as Patriots Path runs along the Whippanong River corridor. The Recreation Department sponsors many programs and activities for residents of all ages and recreation facilities include a community center and gym, a historic chapel and meeting hall, a municipal swimming pool, playgrounds, basketball, bocce, volleyball, and tennis courts, baseball, softball, and soccer fields, horseshoe pits, fishing ponds, ice skating ponds, and picnic areas.

Hanover Township has two fire departments, a police department, a first aid squad, and a public works department that maintains, sweeps, and plows roads and collects garbage, grass clippings, leaves, and recycles papers, plastic, glass, and metal. Hanover has a museum, an airport, two libraries, an interstate highway and a state freeway running through it, two shopping centers, and a mix of condominiums, townhouses, ranch houses, bi-levels, split levels, capes, colonials, and “Mc Mansions,” with conveniences of natural gas, electricity, cable TV and internet service, city water, a sanitary sewer system, and township roads complete with storm drains and Belgian block curbs.

Hanover Township has a broad base of industrial/commercial ratables that help provide residents with some of the lowest property taxes in Morris County. Industrial and corporate campuses are usually built in park-like settings. Retail establishments are pleasantly void of offensive commercialism and obtrusive neon signs as seen in surrounding areas. Unlike neighboring municipalities that are now built to urban proportions, Hanover remains a suburb. With careful planning, it will retain its suburban integrity for many years to come.